

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 19 of the application, and extending to page 4, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

Longitudinally extending circumferentially spaced channels 26a-26g preferably are identical to each other and uniformly angularly spaced around sidewall axis 30. As best seen in FIG. 4, the radially inner portions of the several longitudinal channels 26a-26g lie on an hourglass-shaped common surface of revolution 33 around sidewall axis 30. This surface of revolution curves continuously in the preferred embodiments of the invention from the upper end of sidewall 20 where the sidewall connects with shoulder 18 to the lower end of sidewall 20 where the sidewall connects with container base 22. The minimum diameter or waist of hourglass-shaped surface of revolution 33 preferably is about halfway between the upper and lower ends of the sidewall, although this can vary for containers of differing geometries. Hourglass-shaped surface of revolution 33 can have other than continuously curving geometries, such as a geometry in which the upper and lower end portions are substantially conical and are interconnected by a curved waist. The outline of the hourglass-shaped geometry can be symmetrical or non-symmetrical, such as by placing the waist well above or below the midpoint of the sidewall. The preferred embodiment illustrated in FIG. 4 is slightly asymmetrical in that, while the mid portion of surface 33 is at constant radius, the upper and lower end portions are at differing non-constant radii. As viewed from the axial direction (FIGS. 2 and 3), longitudinal channels 26a-26g may be of any suitable geometry, such as substantially V-shaped as shown in the drawings, or curving at either constant or varying radius of curvature. The radially inner portions of longitudinal channels 26a-26g may be sharp or have small radii of curvature, or more preferably may possess large radii of curvature or even be substantially flat. Longitudinal channels 26a-26g are uniformly spaced from to each other, and may be at an angle to sidewall axis 30 of 0° to 30°. For example, as shown in FIG. 4, the lowermost portion of longitudinal channel 26f is at an angle α with respect to the axis 30. In the preferred embodiments illustrated in the drawings, longitudinal channels 26a-26g (or 26a-26h in FIGS. 5-7) are identical, parallel to

Applicant: Timothy P. Axe et al.
Appl. No.: 10/664,372

~~each other and parallel to~~ and each longitudinal channel is substantially co-planar with the
sidewall axis 30. For example, FIGS. 3 and 4 together show longitudinal channels 26c and 26f
being co-planar with the axis 30.